

**Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held on
Thursday 25th July 2013
in the Committee Room, Clayport Street Alnwick at 6.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs K Moore (Chairman), S Allcroft, B Grisdale, M Swinbank and A Symmonds.
In attendance: W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk.

CEM13/08. Apologies: Cllrs D Farrar and S Mavin

CEM 13/09. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

CEM 13/10. 2013/14 Budget

The clerk circulated the 2013/14 budget for the Committee with expenditure as at 15th July 2013. This showed expenditure of £13,622 and Income of £8,702. Councillors went through the budget line by line and the budget appeared to be on target for the year.

RESOLVED: To receive the update.

CEM 13/11. Future Tree Planting

It was reported that Tom Pattinson was happy to visit the cemetery to give advice on future tree planting. A visit would be arranged to enable a report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: To receive the update.

CEM 13/12. Future Volunteer Scheme

The possibility of having a future volunteer scheme had been discussed at the last meeting. The clerk had prepared a proposed press release asking for anyone interested to contact the Council. Councillors were in favour of this and discussed the type of activities that may be possible to undertake.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the press release to gauge possible interest.

CEM 13/13. Cemetery Literature/Information/Marketing

Councillor Allcroft circulated a draft of a leaflet that was being prepared giving useful information and background details of the cemetery. Councillor Farrar had written up and sent some cemetery tour notes which could also be utilised; this separated the cemetery description out into the various parts (old, new and cemetery annex). Councillors were supportive of the progress to-date and felt that these should be worked up into final drafts. Councillor Farrar had also undertaken some research and made marketing recommendations. The research had included a discussion with two local funeral directors. Amongst the findings were:

- In Alnwick about 50% of services are cremations and 50% burials,
- Around 80% have a church service
- The demand for green burials in Alnwick was not big at present.
- Positive feedback was obtained about the work of the cemetery superintendent.

Councillors discussed the marketing options and agreed that price increases should reflect other local alternatives, green burials should be examined as part of the new extension and agreed it may be worth promoting the Chapel of Rest after undertaking any inexpensive improvements. It was felt important that the Chapel of Rest was a high standard.

RESOLVED: To receive the information, note the progress made and look to implement improved marketing.

CEM 13/14. Proposed Visit to Cemetery

RESOLVED: It was agreed to undertake a visit to the cemetery on Wednesday 4th September 2013 starting at 6.00pm

CEM 13/15. Any Other Business

It was agreed to bring a paper to the next meeting on the use of weed-killers in the cemetery.

The meeting closed at 7.19pm